instructions might be issued to the local Municipality to attend to that item of work and also depute a special officer for investigating into the condition of public health in the town.

Dewan's reply.—You accuse Government of indifference in regard to the constitution of a Port Trust at Alleppey and you say that the merchants could not be expected to take the initiative. Government have certainly no objection to do the spade work for you. I shall ask the Chief Engineer to go to Alleppey. There is the Chief Port Officer also there. The merchants should meet them and they will render all the necessary help and you may try to establish a Port Trust. An organisation like that is very necessary for an important port like Alleppey; without that it will not be possible to formulate schemes which are necessary for the improvement of the port and suggest the methods of financing them. You say that the cost of these schemes must be borne by the Government, because the benefit of the trade of Alleppey is not for that town alone, but for the whole of Travancore. That is a remark which applies to all Ports. The trade in Cochin or Madras is not for the benefit of Cochin or Madras alone. In all these places it is the whole country that contributes to the trade of the port, and yet they have separate Trusts of their own. You must have an organisation like the Port Trust, whose special business it will be to attend to matters connected with the administration and the improvement of the port.

You have next referred to certain local needs. You want a boat basin to the west of the triple bridge. I do not remember to have seen any correspondence in regard to that. The matter will be re-examined. Any estimate prepared years ago may not be of use now.

You also want an increase in the number of godowns near the pier. I think that this is a real need for Alleppey. I shall ask the Chief Engineer to see how many more godowns could be put up and at what cost.

As regards the river police, I shall address the Commissioner of Police.

In regard to roads, you say that, although the Government and the Municipal Council of Alleppey have come to an understanding regarding the transfer to the Council of some of the roads, Government should not divest itself of the duty of opening new roads. The understanding applies not only to the maintenance of existing roads but also to the construction of new roads. But even there, if the work is a very costly one, which the Municipal Council is unable to undertake, it is for the Council to formulate the necessary scheme and place it before Government and ask what contribution may be expected, and state how far the Council itself is prepared to go.

Member.—What I mean is that, in regard to roads already constructed, the Municipality will undertake to maintain them ; but the opening of new roads should be done by Government.

Dewan.—That is somewhat different from the understanding already arrived at. The understanding is that the Municipal Council should not only maintain the existing roads, but should also attend to the construction of new roads which are small and not very costly.

You have next referred to the insanitary condition of certain tracts to the west of the Alleppey Palace. I have gone to Alleppey more than once. My attention has not been drawn to these tracts. There also an idea of the cost of the improvement works would have to be given to the Government before they could say whether they could do anything in the matter.

97. The financial policy of Government towards Municipalities and especially with reference to that of Mavelikara.

Mr. P. N. Narayana Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) stated that, though Mavelikara town was subject to all the taxes which obtained in the other Municipalities of the State, yet the income derived therefrom was not sufficient even for the maintenance of the office establishment under the Municipality and for lighting a few street-lamps in the town. He, therefore, requested that an increased grant might be given to the Municipality for attending to the sanitation of

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the town satisfactorily. The Member stated that there were three big tanks used by caste Hindus within the town and that the water in all those tanks was very bad. It was urgently necessary to restore those tanks and to sink a few wells for the use of local inhabitants. He observed that the attitude of the Government in relation to municipal administration was not encouraging, as was evident from the fact that in 1095, when the Municipality wanted some land, Government demanded compensation for the transfer of that land, and that, where doubts regarding the interpretation of some provisions of the Municipal Regulation were referred to, the Government directed the Council to pay consultation fee to the Head Sirkar Vakil. The Member's view was that such services should be rendered free of cost by the officers of the Government to Municipal Councils. All Municipalities, rich or poor, major or minor, levied a uniform rate of house tax at 3 per cent., and the Member requested that the rate might be reduced to 2½ per cent. in the town of Mavelikara. Although Mavelikara was a pauper Municipality and its finances called for sedulous watchfulness, Government had sanctioned the opening of two private markets by the side of the municipal market (Putiakavu) in spite of the repeated protests of the Municipality. The income to the Government from those two markets was nominal, but the loss to the Municipality was great. In the light of the facts set forth above, the Member repeated his request that Government might sanction a decent grant to the Municipality.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to the Putiakavu market, there was a representation from the President, but subsequently he said that the trouble was over and that no further action was necessary. Therefore, nothing more was done. If the two private markets outside the municipal limits are too close to the Putiakavu market and if the grant of licenses to them is prejudicial to the interests of the municipal market, the Government may be re-addressed with regard to that. You say that your Municipality is a pauper Municipality. I do not see why, of all Municipalities, the Mavelikara Municipality alone should be a pauper Municipality. Any one going to Mavelikara and seeing the condition of that town will not come away with that impression. You say that you are levying all taxes under the Municipal Regulation and yet your Municipality is a pauper one. Everything depends upon the way in which the taxes are assessed. Your houses are not smaller than, or inferior in quality to, the houses in other towns. But you are not getting the proper revenue. Why? You are, no doubt, levying 3 per cent. of the annual rental as tax. But the tax depends upon the rental value you fix upon the buildings. It is as much the duty of the Municipal Council to try and improve its resources as it is the duty of the Government to go to the rescue of the Council in regard to matters which do not come within the purview of its ordinary functions.

Then you complain about your having to pay for legal opinion on municipal questions to be secured from the Law Officers of Government. The Municipalities, although they are working under the auspices of the Government, are different from Govermental institutions and I do not think that the Law Officers of Government are wrong in claiming fees for giving opinions on questions referred to them. You have lawyer members on your Council and you could decide such questions yourselves. Why do you want the opinion of the Government's Law Officers?

In regard to the Government land asked for by your Municipality, I do not remember the correspondence now. You say it was in 1095. But rules have recently been framed for alienating Government lands to Municipalities for municipal purposes. Under these rules, the lands are transferred free of value, and even free of assessment. You may apply under these rules for the land you require.

98. The policy of Government towards Municipalities in general and particularly towards the Changanachery Municipality.

Mr. C. M. Joseph (Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery) represented that it was undesirable that the Government should compel the introduction of new taxes against the resolutions of Municipal Councils. He complained against the policy, recently pursued by the Government, of the gradual reduction tending to the eventual stoppage altogether of Government grants to Municipalities.

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